SKY MASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Don't Sneeze Here!

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

In yesterday's column, I discussed nana compacta type of bedding petunia, a dwarf race making a neat, compact plant less than a foot tall which covers itself with bloom from early summer until the first ground frosts of fall. This type of petunia, while it has every possible virtue for massed bedding effects, is useless as a cut flower and too short for use in the mixed flower border.

There are taller and more impressive petunias for these uses, most of which have appeared upon the garden scene within the last few years. We have first-generation hybrids in glowing new color combinations and with flowers four times the size of the modest bedding petunias; we have plants bearing fully double flowers, so heavily veined and fringed as to be scarcely recognizable as members of the petunia family; and we have a new "Fluffy Ruffles" race with blooms as frilly as grandmother's petticoat.

Most of these make biggish plants, 1½ to 2½ feet tall, and a little on the floppy side unless you stake them, but with incredibly large and beautiful flowers.

Until the Second World War, seeds of the fancy double petunias were available only from Japan, where their production was a closely guarded secret. It didn't do any good to save seeds from these Japanese plants—either they wouldn't produce any seed, or if seed was formed, it produced only the old single-flowered petunias. Consequently, the production of double petunia seed was a highly profitable Japanese monopoly.

When Japan entered the war, the supply of these seeds was, of course, cut off. Many of the leading U.S. hybridists took a crack at puzzling out the secret of the double petunia, but it fell to the lot of a Canadian to ferret out the answer to the problem. Mr. Simonette of Edmonton was the first and only westerner to produce double petunia seed, and his process, under licence, is the one used by all the U.S. breeders to this day.

★ ★ ★

His Canadian All Double petunias, found in most of the leading seed catalogues, are the best in this class. At retail, seeds are worth about $13,000 a pound, and for $2 you get a packet containing 500 of the dust-like seeds. I've often wondered what would happen if someone sneezed in the seed-packing plant! It would be the most expensive "gesundheit" in history.

Canadian All Double petunias stand about 18 inches tall, but a shorter race has been developed under the name of Dwarf Victorious, making plants 10 to 12 inches high, 18 inches across, and carrying fully double blooms up to five inches wide.

★ ★ ★

These are available in separate colors, including Darling, rosy carmine; White Swan, pure white; America, rose pink, and Gaiety, with heavily ruffled double flowers in pink flecked with white, rather like an enormous carnation bloom. These dwarf doubles, incidentally, are beautifully proportioned for pot culture, too.

I have written before about heterosis, the peculiar and unaccountable strength and vigor found in the first-generation hybrids of both plants and animals. In petunias, this hybrid vigor is found in the F-1 Multifloras. While the blooms are not as big as the doubles—about 3½ inches across—they are produced in prodigious quantities, and the plants are strong, upstanding, and disease-resistant.

The best in the F-1 Multifloras are Pink Satin, Red Satin, Peach Satin, Rose Charm—Silver Medal—a rich salmon shade, and Blue Lustre, a glistening deep purple.

Blue Flash, Report — 'Burning Up,' He Cried

Tiny Fraction Killed Kelley

WASHINGTON (UPI) — At 4.35 p.m. on Dec. 30, 1958, Cecil W. Kelley pushed a button.

The button was on a switch at the top of a 225-gallon tank, 38 inches in diameter, in Room 218 at the Atomic Energy Commission's Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico.

Kelley, 38, had pushed the button many times before. All it ever did was start a mechanical agitator, a bladed stirring device in the bottom of the tank.

That's all it did this time. But, this time, there was an accompanying "blue flash" and a muffled report. Kelley ran from the room crying that he was "burning up."

At 3.15 a.m. Jan. 1, just 35 hours and 25 minutes after he pushed the button, Kelley was dead. By starting the stirring device he had performed the final act in a series of acts which, in sum, created the atomic chain reaction whose radiations killed him.

The accident happened in a plutonium recovery plant which had been operated by Kelley and others for 7½ years with complete safety.

The Atomic Energy Commission, in an official report, said that "the accident was directly attributable to errors on the part of the deceased operator."

It also was attributable to a chain of fateful circumstances involving safety margins measurable in fractions of an ounce and fractions of an inch. A plus of two-fifths of an inch killed Kelley.

Plutonium is a man-made fissionable material which is a vital part of most nuclear weapons. Bring together enough plutonium in the right geometrical shape and you get a "critical assembly" capable of sustaining a fission chain reaction and releasing deadly radiation.

The AEC report says Kelley did a number of things he shouldn't have done. But the circumstances were unusual.

On the day of Kelley's chain of mistakes, it so happened that plutonium-bearing materials which normally would have been handled separately were washed from their tanks into another larger one.

Standard operating procedures, the AEC said, "require" separate handling.

The stainless steel tank in Room 218, known as the "solvent treating tank," contained the components of catastrophe for Kelley.

At the bottom was a water solution containing a small amount of plutonium. Floating on top of it was a lighter solution of organic material containing seven pounds of plutonium.

This floating layer, eight inches thick and 38 inches in diameter, was "subcritical." It could have floated there forever without hurting anybody if nothing was added to its plutonium content.

But Kelley, standing on a two-step ladder, pushed the button that started the agitator. The stirring forced water from the underlying solution up the wall of the tank, creating a bulge in the more heavily impregnated floating layer.

The layer's thickness was increased an average of two-fifths of an inch. It was enough to change its shape into a "supercritical configuration."

As far as Kelley's senses could tell him, all the things that happened when he pushed the button happened at once. In a tiny fraction of a second, 150 million billion plutonium atoms were fissioned.

There was the "blue flash," the too-late signal that deadly amounts of radiation had been released at velocities equal or close to that of light. There was the muffled report.

Kelley was knocked off his stool. The tank was displaced three-eights of an inch but was not ruptured, thanks to the comparatively small amount of plutonium involved and the short duration of the critical assembly.

Kelley ran through a door crying that he was "burning up."

That was significant. You can take killing amounts of radiation—400 to 600 roentgens — without feeling a thing. But Kelley, it was established later, had received 12,000.

Hollywood Today — By Sheilah Graham

Laughton Plays Bottom

HOLLYWOOD (NANA) — How's this for casting? **Charles Laughton** not only plays Bottom in "Midsummer Night's Dream" at Stratford-on-Avon this summer in England, but goes to the other extreme by doing King Lear also. These two treats I will definitely fly over to see.

★ ★ ★

Gary Cooper was telling **James Garner**, of the good old days at Paramount: "When **Carole Lombard, George Raft, Claudette Colbert** and, later, **Bing Crosby**, would wander in and out of everyone's dressing room when the day's work was done. We had fun with picture-making then."

★ ★ ★

Gogi Grant, who was the voice of **Helen Morgan** in that Warner movie, is asking to be the voice and body of **Fanny Brice** when the late, famous entertainer's life story reaches the screen.

★ ★ ★

On top of all **Guy Madison's** expenses maintaining a home for estranged wife **Sheila** and the children, and one for himself, he also pays ex-wife **Gail Russell** $500 a month.

★ ★ ★

Anthony Quinn, who has starred with **Sophia Loren, Maureen O'Hara, Gina Lollobrigida, Shirley Booth, Dorothy Malone, Anna Magnani** and **Carolyn Jones** and others, has a ready answer when asked which leading lady he prefers: "To me there are actresses with talent and without talent. I prefer to play opposite those with talent."

★ ★ ★

Brigitte Bardot has bought a burial plot in St. Tropez on the French Riviera where she spent last summer.

★ ★ ★

Princess Grace Kelly had to get permission from MGM, who still have a contract with her, before she could act, gratis, in husband **Prince Rainier's** promotional film for Monaco, "Invitation to Monte Carlo."

Winning Contract

By SCHENCKEN AND FREY

Vul: N–S

NORTH
♠ 10 9
♡ A K 6
◊ Q 4
♣ A K Q 9 8 6

WEST
♠ 2
♡ J 3 2
◊ A 9 7 5 3 2
♣ J 10 3

EAST
♠ J 6 4 3
♡ Q 10 9 8 4
◊ J 10
♣ 5 2

SOUTH (D)
♠ A K Q 8 7 5
♡ 7 5
◊ K 8 6
♣ 7 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♡	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead: ◊ A

Looking at all four hands, anybody would prefer to play today's hand at six no-trump. A three-two break in either black suit would assure declarer of 12 tricks. But the actual bidding sequence was not unreasonable. South correctly interpreted his partner's heart bid at the five-level as showing controls, and at the same time indicating concern about the diamond holding. South, with second round diamond control, feared he might have to ruff out the club suit, and decided in favor of the spade slam.

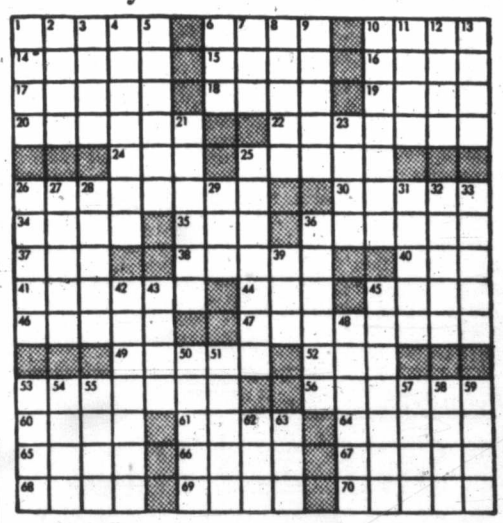
West won with the diamond ace and led another diamond, taken on the board. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps, and when West showed out, it was too late to take a finesse through East, since dummy didn't have another trump to lead.

Nevertheless, South evaded a trump loser. He led a club to dummy's ace, cashed the club king, and ruffed a club. A heart was played to North's ace, and another club ruffed. Now South was down to as many trumps as East. A heart to dummy's king enabled declarer to continue leading good clubs from dummy until East was forced to ruff in. South could then overruff and pick up East's last trump.

The repeated trump-shortening play necessary here is called a grand coup. When it works, it gives a grand feeling.

Released by The Associated Newspapers

The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Succinct.
6. Small weight.
10. Animal's fur.
14. Motto.
15. River of Europe.
16. Non-Moslem subject of Ottoman Empire.
17. Saltpeter.
18. Loosely matted mass of material.
19. Wild buffalo of India.
20. Looks at fixedly.
22. Weasels.
24. Anger.
25. Extent of land (pl.).
26. Gave proof of
30. Examinations.
34. Den.
35. Tree.
36. Stanza of six lines.
37. Girl's name.
38. Choire part.
40. The wallaba.
41. Assents to.
44. Knock.
45. Row.
46. Flies.
47. Scrutinizes closely.
49. Short jackets.
52. Burmese demon.
53. Go before.
56. Pinches out light of candle.
60. Stage actor.
61. Forest tree of Eastern Asia.
64. Pertaining to Troy.
65. Power stake.
66. Poker stake.
66. The self (pl.).
67. Spear-like weapon.
68. Require.
69. Ostrich-like bird.
70. Rugged crest of mountain range.

DOWN
1. Prepares leatner.
2. Means of egress.
3. Feminine name.
4. More regretful.
5. Turkish title (pl.).
6. Sailor (slang).
7. Narrow inlet.
8. Flower.
9. Distance measure.
10. Lyuds.
11. Merit.
12. Cord.
13. Chinese pagodas.
21. Mediterranean vessels.
23. Ship's officer.
25. Respects.
26. Pseudonym.
27. Dance.
28. Ornamental coronet worn by women.
29. Cloth measure.
31. Discolor.
32. Indian tent.
33. Asterisks.
36. Part of flower (pl).
39. Impost.
42. Constructed.
43. Italian city.
45. Nominal.
48. City in Philippines.
50. Queerer.
51. Sound made by horse.
53. Diagram.
54. Old Teutonic alphabet sign.
55. Heraldry: grafted.
57. Pulverized.
58. Actuality.
59. To cut, after snick.
62. Pedal digit.
63. Man's name.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

(Released by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)